

means for storing said correlated network address and said correlated network name in a table.

44
~~42.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ~~36~~³⁸, wherein said network name is suggested by said local device.

E1
29
end
~~45~~
~~43.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ~~36~~³⁸, wherein HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is used to exchange information.

~~46~~
~~44.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ~~36~~³⁸, wherein Service Location Protocol (SLP) is used to exchange information.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 21 and 26 have been amended. Claims 29-44 have been added. No claims have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-7 and 12-44 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7 and 12-28 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,167,446 issued to Lister, et al. (*Lister*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,830 issued to Rangaraian, et al. (*Rangaraian*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 12-28 are not rendered obvious by *Lister* and *Rangaraian*.

Claim 1 recites:

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requesting, with a local device, configuration services from a remote device coupled to the network in response to connecting the local device to the network;

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if the response to said configuration information request is not received by the local device from said remote device within a predetermined period of time;

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and

operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

Thus, Applicants claim requesting configuration services with a network device and if configuration services are not available to the device providing configuration services with the device. Claim 12 is a method claim that recites determination of which network device provides configuration services. Claims 21 and 26 similarly recite determining which of multiple devices provides configuration services. New claims 29 and 36 are means plus function claims that similarly recite determining which of multiple devices provides configuration services.

Lister is directed to a network proxy cache that provides tracking of names. See, for example, the Summary of the Invention. Specifically, *Lister* states:

The present invention provides automatic configuration for proxy caches such as network-infrastructure caches.

See col. 3, lines 39-40. *Lister* does not disclose a device that *selectively provides or receives configuration services* and can operate as a client device. Because caches simply store data that may be used repeatedly, nothing in *Lister* suggests that a device that is configured (i.e., the proxy cache) can also provide configuration services depending on conditions.

Rangaraian is cited to teach determination of priorities. See Office Action at page 3. However, *Rangaraian* does not teach use of priorities with respect to

configuration services. Therefore, *Rangaraian* does not cure the deficiencies of *Lister* and no combination of *Lister* and *Rangaraian* teaches or suggests the invention as claimed in claims 1, 12, 21, 29 and 36.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Claims 13-20 depend from claim 12. Claims 22-25 depend from claim 21. Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 26. Claims 30-35 depend from claim 29. Claims 37-44 depend from claim 36. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-7, 13-20, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-35 and 37-44 are not rendered obvious by *Lister* and *Rangaraian* for at least the reasons set forth above.


Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-7 and 12-44 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: Sept 5, 2002


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MARKED VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:

requesting, with a local device, configuration services [information] from a remote device coupled to the network in response to connecting the local device to the network;

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if the response to said configuration information request is not received by the local device from said remote device within a predetermined period of time;

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and

operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

2. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said providing configuration services comprises:

[automatically] determining a first network address;

[automatically] assigning a second network address;

[automatically] assigning a network name;

[automatically] correlating said first network address, said second network

address, and said network name; and

recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second network

address and said correlated network name in a table.

7. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of time is varied [so as to prevent race conditions].

12. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:
[automatically] assigning an address to a local device on said network;
[automatically] assigning a network name to said local device;
[automatically] supplying user and group information across said network; and
[automatically] determining service capability of said local device including whether said local device is capable of providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network;
providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said local device; and
operating as a client device to receive configuration services from a remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

21. (Twice Amended) A network comprising:
a first device coupled to said network, said first device configured to
[automatically]
request a first network address;
receive a first network address from a second device coupled to said
network;

provide a network configuration services if said first network address is not received from said second device;

determine its priority level on said network if said first network address is received from said second device;

provide said network configuration services if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said second device; and

operate as a client device to receive configuration services from said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

26. (Twice Amended) A network comprising:

a first device configured to

assign an address to a second device on said network;

assign a network name to said second device on said network;

supply user and group information across said network; and

determine service capability of said second device on said network,

wherein if said first device is capable of providing configuration services to said network; [and]

provide configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said device; and

operate as a client device to receive configuration services from said

remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.